

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for the storage of wine, comprising a vessel provided with recycling means operable to withdraw the wine from a bottom region of the storage vessel and to reintroduce it internally to the mass of wine in storage, and conditioning means arranged to maintain in suspension the lees contained in the wine and/or to prevent sedimentation at the bottom of the vessel.
2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the said conditioning means comprise a doctor blade device operable to scrape the inner surface of the bottom wall of the vessel.
3. Apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the said doctor blade device comprises one or more rotating arms provided with a lip or brush(es) slidably in contact with or close to the bottom of the vessel.
4. Apparatus according to Claim 3, comprising a static scraper member mounted above the arm (or arms) of the rotary doctor blade device and operable to clean it or them.
5. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the said conditioning means comprise tubular distribution means mounted adjacent to the bottom of the vessel and communicating with the said recirculation means and provided with a plurality of nozzles and/or other efflux means arranged to deliver the wine supplied to the said tubular distribution means from the said recirculation means towards the bottom wall of the vessel.

6. Apparatus according to Claims 1 or 5, wherein the said conditioning means comprise a static or rotary distribution device comprising one or more tubular arms extending radially from the central zone of the bottom of the vessel towards the side wall and having a plurality of nozzles and/or other efflux means for delivery of the wine supplied to the said distribution device by the recirculation means.

7. Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the said tubular distribution means are associated with one or more rotating blades adjacent to the bottom of the vessel.

8. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the said conditioning means comprise a doctor blade device in association with tubular distribution means provided with nozzles and/or other efflux means operable to deliver the wine supplied to the said tubular distribution means from the said recirculation means.

9. Apparatus according to Claim 1, which is constituted by fermentation apparatus provided with a main vessel intended to constitute the said storage vessel and by an upper vessel, overlying the said main vessel, having a bottom with a central aperture with which is associated a shutter movable between an open position and a closure position closing the bottom aperture and actuated by an actuator.

10. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the said recycling means comprise a wine supply duct adjacent the bottom wall of the said vessel.

11. Apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the said recycling means further include a duct for reintroducing the

wine into the heart of the mass of wine in storage/refinement on the lees.

12. Apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the bottom of the upper vessel has an associated hatch or door communicating with the main vessel for allowing complete filling of the said main vessel.

13. Apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein at the upper end of the main vessel has an associated hatch or door to allow the complete filling of the said main vessel.

14. Apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the said recycling means have associated oxygen blowing means for oxygenation of the wine subject to recycling.

15. Fermentation apparatus of the type comprising a main vessel and an upper vessel having a bottom with a central aperture with which is associated a shutter movable between an open position and a closure position closing the bottom aperture and actuated by an actuator, further comprising a doctor blade device operable to scrape the inner surface of the bottom wall of the said main vessel, and recycling means operable to withdraw the liquid contained in the said main vessel from the bottom of the said vessel and to reintroduce it internally to the mass of liquid contained in the said main vessel.